Casual Writing Assignment #1

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| **Unit:**  Basic Economic Concepts |
| **Topic:**  Note Taking |
| **Type of Writing:**  Casual |
| **Time Frame:**  During notes |
| **Plan:**   * Introduce Cornell Method of Taking Notes * Present power point * Assign cues for homework * During class on the following day, write summary, and address any questions |
| **Materials**:  Handout: How to Take Notes, the Cornell Method |

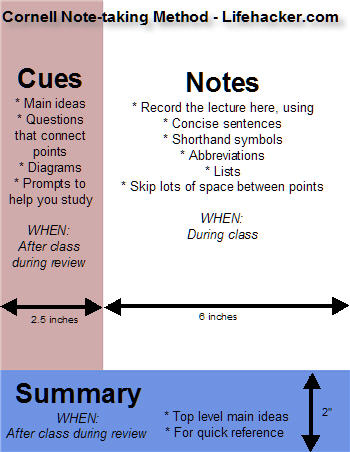
How to Take Notes

Cornell Method

(from Lifehacker.com)

Using the Cornell method, you split your notes page into three sections, as shown below.

* **Notes column (right)** Record the lecture here during class using short sentences and fragments that transcribe the facts you'll need. Eliminate all unnecessary words. Use bulleted lists for easy skimming, and as much shorthand as possible (without sacrificing readability.) Develop a vocabulary of abbreviations you always use. Finally, leave lots of whitespace between points and paragraphs so you can go back and fill in sections later.
* **Cues column (left)** After class, review your notes and jot questions and memory joggers in this narrow column that help connect ideas listed in the notes section. When you're studying, you will look at these cues to help you recall the salient facts in your notes, so keep that in mind when you create your cues.
* **Summary area (bottom)** After class while you create your cues, sum up the notes on each page in one or two sentences that encapsulate the main ideas in the bottom area. You'll use the summary section to skim through your notes and find information later.



In short, once you've attended class and filled in the notes area, that evening, review them and fill in the cues and summary area. When the time comes to study for an exam, read through your notes. To quiz yourself, cover up the right side and use the cues on the left to jog your memory and help you rebuild the factual narrative in your mind. When you've got a paper to write, use the summary section of each notes page to flip through and find relevant facts to cite in your paper.

Casual Writing Assignment #2

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| **Unit:**  Macroeconomics |
| **Topic:**  Ripple Effect |
| **Type of Writing:**  Causal |
| **Time Frame:**  30 minutes |
| **Plan:**   * Introduce the ripple effect using a short role play demonstrating how different people are affected by an auto plant closing down * In small groups, students will create a graphic organizer demonstrating the ripple effect of an auto plant shutting down. Students must include at least 10 effects, only two of which can come from the role play, and visuals. * Present organizers to the class. |
| **Materials:**   * Role Play handouts * Newsprint * Markers, colored pencils, etc. |

**Paul, laid off line worker from auto plant**

I've been out of work now for six months. When the plant closed, we got a decent package (including healthcare benefits!), so I didn't have to jump at the first job opportunity. Not that there are any real job prospects around here. At first, a lot of us hoped that the economy would rebound and they'd open the plant back up for at least one shift. If that happens (and I doubt it will), it won't be any time soon.

I just can't believe how much things have changed around here ...

**Babek, Chief Financial Officer, tire manufacturing company**

Ever since the plant closed ... we've barely survived. I'm the numbers guy and I don't see how we can do it for much longer. Obviously we knew we'd take a huge hit when the plant closed. We make tires! And they buy tires -- well, they bought tires. For the last couple of years they bought fewer and fewer, but that was still a lot more than none. We've had massive lay-offs, eliminating a lot of salaries and costs for health insurance, but that goes only so far.

The numbers don't lie ...

**LaShea, real estate agent**

Housing sales are in the dumps. Nobody's buying, and nobody's selling. Can you blame them? Home values are ... well, they're really low. Home values were already on their way down across the country. A lot of us in the real estate business knew that the market would cool off -- that prices couldn't keep going up and that homes for sale would sit on the market for longer. But we went from cooling to deep freeze really quickly when the plant closed.

And I make my living on commission ...

**Charles, mortgage broker (recently retired)**

No commission means no revenue for me. I just went ahead and retired. Unfortunately, retired before Medicare kicks in. But there was no work. I thought maybe I'd get some business helping people refinance their homes, but that amounted to very little. Honestly, I was looking to retire at some point soon. When times were good, I never worked Fridays and generally took a lot of time off. Straight commission can have its advantages! It gave me a taste for retirement. Unfortunately, it won't be the kind of retirement I imagined it would be.

I mean, even eating out seems like a stretch ...

**Maria, server at a family restaurant**

People just aren't spending money on dining out like they used to. People would wait 45 minutes or more for a table, especially on weekends. It was THE place to be for families. It was loud. It was fun. It was ... Listen to me: "was"! It's just not the same place. Definitely not for me. I would make about $75 a lunch shift and at least $100 for dinner. Not anymore -- even with a bunch of different specials that we offer to get people in the door. I'm just not busy like I used to be.

We're hardly ever full ...

**Jacqueline, development director at community theatre company**

We rarely have sell-outs like we used to. Clearly, a lot of people are unemployed, and a lot of people worry that they might be out of work soon, so everyone's cutting back on spending. We've got a great "product" -- live theatre is a special experience. And as a nonprofit that depends on volunteers like actors, set builders, and ushers, we have really low ticket prices. We realize that to get more people to donate money to the theatre (my main focus!), we have to get butts in seats.

We used to have a lot more people come from out of town ...

**Bae, housekeeper at a large hotel**

When the auto plant was open, we always had guests. People would come for a whole week for meetings at the plant. Sometimes they stayed, and their kids would come for the weekend. When you stay for a week, we get to know you a little bit. That helps for tips. When you stay for a long time, you also use the workout room. That place is always empty. We used to always take fresh towels in there -- two or three times a day.

I don't know if people are too depressed to work out ...

**Curtis, YMCA staff member**

I have to work out, or I get depressed! But our classes just aren't as full as they used to be. A lot of people didn't renew their memberships. In this economy, everyone's keeping a close eye on their budgets and cutting where they can. Still, I was surprised at how many people stopped coming. Six months ago, we never had idle equipment during the evening spin classes. The pool almost always had people swimming laps. I definitely worry about losing my job and my health benefits. A friend who's a personal trainer lost over half of her clients.

I know people have to sacrifice. I just wish they'd sacrifice in other ways ...

**Justin, high school student and tutor**

I think tutoring really helps the kids, so it's a shame that their parents have had to give that up. There's more to it, too. Yeah, I help them with math, but it's also time for kids who are struggling in school to be around a pretty good role model. Maybe even talk about things that they don't feel comfortable talking about with their parents. Lots of parents are stressing about the economy and about losing jobs and healthcare coverage, so it's probably even more important right now.

And math's not getting any easier for them ...

**Paul, laid off line worker from auto plant**

My twin boys used to have this great tutor named Justin. When I got laid off, Justin kept coming to the house for about a month to tutor the boys. We just can't justify that expense anymore. For my kids, it was a teachable moment or whatever you want to call it. A tough thing to have to teach them, but their dad's out of work.

Casual Writing Assignment #3

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| Unit:  Globalization |
| Topic:  Environmental Issues |
| Type of Writing:  Casual |
| Plan:   * Discuss what they know about the problems of emissions and global warming. * Read handout and answer questions. * Discuss answers and opinions with an emphasis on explaining their thinking. * Create a political cartoon or bubble conversation. |
| Materials: |
| Handout: Should Developing Countries be Required to Meet the Same Emission Standards as Industrialized Countries? |

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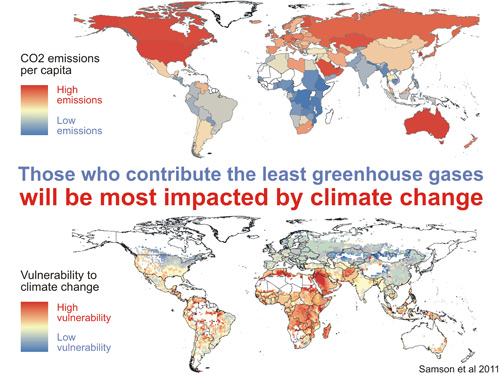
Should Developing Countries Be Required to Meet the

Same Emissions Standards as Industrialized Countries?

**Intro**

Since the industrial revolution, economic development has been dependent on fossil fuels such as natural gas, oil and coal. All these energy sources produce carbon dioxide or greenhouse gases that lead to global warming. As temperatures rise, scientists predict many problems. Many developing countries in Africa and Asia will have less access to water, tropical diseases will spread farther north, flooding will increase, and large numbers of people will be displaced as sea level rises.

The largest contributors to global warming are the United States, China and Russia. When looking at emissions per capita, developing countries rank very low.



The Kyoto Protocol was adopted at the UN Conference on Climate Change. Industrial countries were called on to reduce greenhouse gases by 6-8 percent below 1990 levels. Developing nations do not have to meet these standards because of their concerns about economic development and poverty. Developing nations will be the largest emitters in 20 years in absolute terms, but it will take much longer for them to reach the current per capita levels of the developed world.

**Arguments in Favor of Developing Countries Meeting the Same Emission Standards as the Industrial World**

* Economic development and growth puts stress on the environment because it leads to more energy consumption and carbon emissions. For example, much of China’s energy comes from burning coal and Indonesia and Brazil are destroying millions of acres of rain forest.
* Factories in the developing world are not energy efficient. They should use clean production technologies which will be better for their long term economic progress.
* Factories in China, Mexico, Indonesia and other developing countries are producing larger and larger amounts of pollution and emissions.
* Multinational companies are moving to parts of the world with little or no regulation of pollution so they don’t have to pay the higher costs associated with environmental standards. This adds to the level of emissions in developing countries.
* Developing countries need to follow a development program that is sustainable in the long run. They should learn from the experience of the industrial world.

**Arguments Against Developing Countries Meeting the Same Emission Standards as the Industrial World**

* Developing countries need more economic growth and exports in order to achieve higher income levels. This cannot happen if they have to pay the higher costs associated with emission standards. These commitments undermine economic development.
* As incomes rise, these countries will then be able to afford to devote more resources to improving the environment and reducing emissions because they will have a higher standard of living. Standards should only be required when higher income levels are achieved.
* Industrialized countries did not have these restrictions when they were developing. It is a natural pattern of economic growth and development. It is not fair to ask developing countries to follow a different path for their economic development.
* Once countries become more developed, more of their resources are used for services which pollute much less. Wait until then to apply standards.
* The developed, industrialized countries have caused most of the problem and are still the largest carbon emitters on a per capita basis. They should be the ones to pay for and fix the problem. This should not be done on the backs of the developing world.

**Questions**

1. Which is the strongest argument in favor of meeting carbon emission standards? Explain your thinking.
2. Which is the strongest argument against developing countries meeting carbon emission standards? Explain your thinking.
3. Which side do you agree with the most? Explain your thinking.
4. Choose one of the following.
   * Create a political cartoon on this topic.
   * Draw a figure from a developing country and an industrial country. Use a bubble to show a conversation between the two on this topic.